



VIRGINIA *Civil Rights* MEMORIAL

STATE CAPITOL DEDICATION

It could be said that Barbara Rose Johns is Virginia's Rosa Parks. Not enough have heard the story of how this brave young 16-year-old caused a quiet revolution in the small town of Farmville, Virginia, the ripples of which would be felt throughout the state and the nation for years to come.

In April 1951, Barbara and her fellow students at Robert Russa Moton High School staged a walkout and protest to draw attention to the deplorable conditions at their segregated school. The case eventually led to *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Prince Edward case inspired the writers of Virginia's 1971 state constitution to put education in the Bill of Rights to prevent a reoccurrence of this tragedy.

The Virginia Civil Rights Memorial will recognize and celebrate the Virginians who risked everything in the struggle to gain educational rights for all. The memorial, to be installed on the grounds of Virginia's historic state Capitol in Richmond, also serves to remind us of the debt we all owe to the sacrifice and courage of a few. It will give the thousands of students who visit Capitol Square every year an opportunity to learn important lessons from a pivotal time in Virginia's history and to inspire future generations.

SAVE THE DATES FOR SIGNATURE EVENTS JULY 20 - 21, 2008

Sunday, July 20, 2008 — 3:00 pm

"From Struggle to Triumph to Tomorrow" (Symposium – Library of Virginia)

A premiere film clip of "They Closed Our Schools" will introduce the featured event of the day. The film is based on the Moton story and will precede the intellectual symposium to discuss the question of "Are our schools better off today? Where do we go from here?" The symposium will include nationally recognized panel participants: Nikki Giovanni (Acclaimed Poet/Distinguished Professor), Dr. Janice E. Hale (Education Expert/Noted Author), Congressman Bobby Scott (Third U.S. Congressional District), Cheryl Brown Henderson (President and CEO of the Brown Foundation for Educational Equity, Excellence and Research), John Stokes (1951 Student Participant in the Moton School Protest and Plaintiff in *Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County*) and Andrew Heidelberg (Member of the Norfolk 17 and Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Committee).

Monday, July 21, 2008 — 10:30 am

Unveiling and Dedication Ceremony (Virginia Capitol Square – Downtown Richmond)

The culminating event of the two-day celebration will be the unveiling and dedication of the Virginia Civil Rights Memorial on the state Capitol grounds. Governor Timothy M. Kaine and the General Assembly leadership will be the primary speakers as well as the Honorary Co-Chairs. The formal program will include musical selections and student participation.

Additional signature events will include a book signing, art reception and Capitol open house.

Visit www.vacivilrightsmemorial.org for more information and reservations.